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4-H CLUB WORK MARCHES ON

A Review of Achievements in 1937

By

C. A. Sheffield

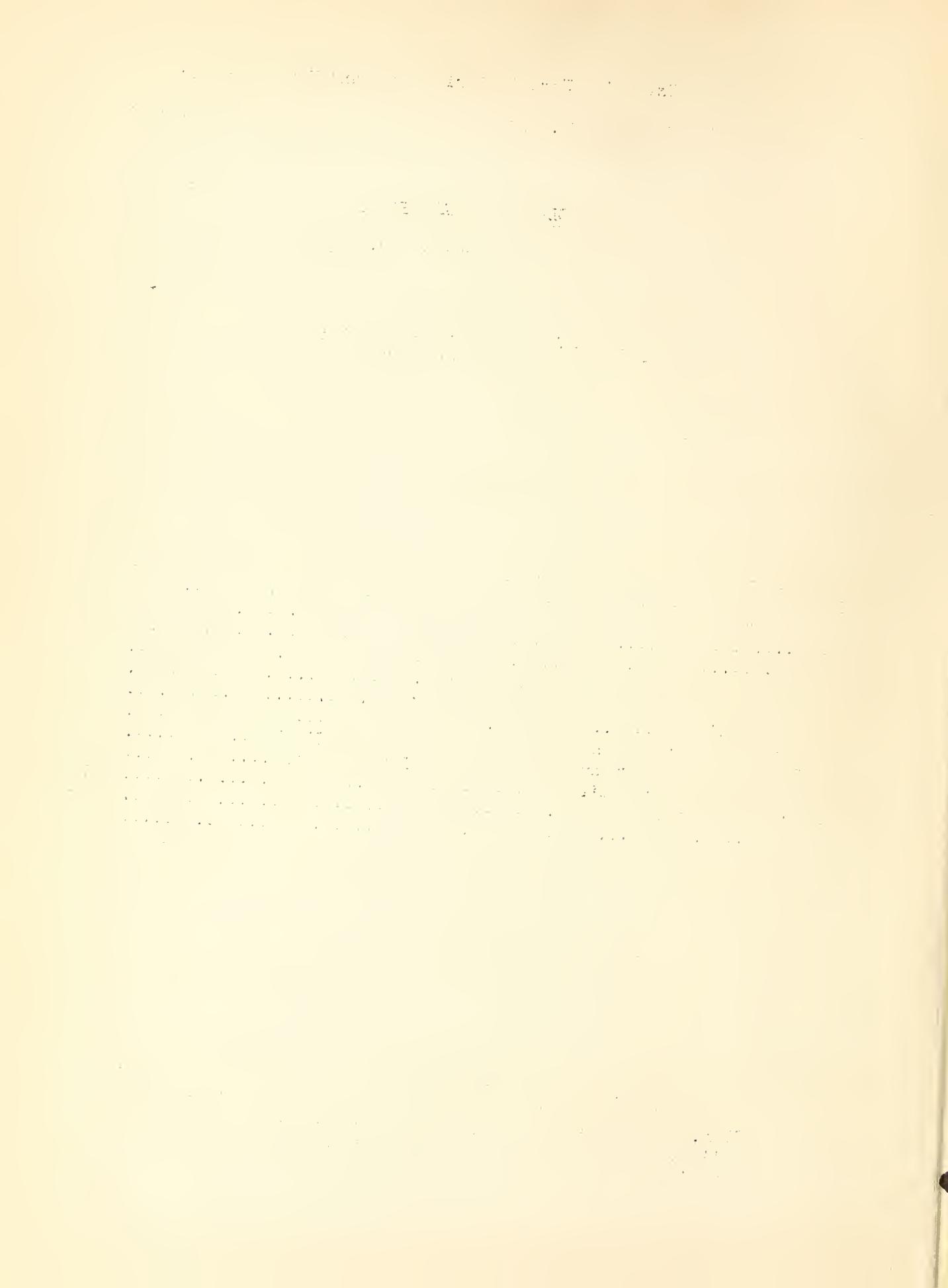
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DISTRIBUTION.--A copy of this circular has been sent to each State Extension director; State and assistant State leader and district agent in 4-H Club, county agricultural, and home demonstration work; extension specialist; and to each agricultural-college library and experiment-station library.



## HIGH LIGHTS OF 4-H CLUB WORK IN 1937

Continued increase in membership.--The more than 1,192,000 boys and girls enrolled in 4-H Club work in 1937 was a 4-percent increase over 1936 enrollment, almost 50 percent more than in 1930, and more than twice the number enrolled in 1924. The more than a half million new 4-H Club members that came into the work during 1937 was more than 40 percent of the estimated number of rural boys and girls in the United States that annually reach the average of 4-H Club starting age of about 12 years.

Members stay in club work longer.--The 51,000 club members in 1937 that had been in club work 6 years or more was about the same percentage as in 1936 and twice the percentage in club work 6 years or more in 1930.

The all-time high record of 72 percent of club members enrolled in 1937 completed the year's work, compared with 69 percent in 1936, 67 percent in 1930, and 55 percent in 1924 (fig. 1).

Carry more projects.--Club members in 1937 conducted 177,000 more projects than in 1936, and they completed 1.8 percent more of those projects than the percentage completed in 1936 (fig. 2).

More older farm young people enrolled.--Organized enrollment of older rural young people not in 4-H clubs increased 16 percent during the year. Of the entire membership of 1,192,000 4-H Club members regularly enrolled in 1937, 231,051 members were 16 years of age and older (fig. 3). This group, together with an enrollment of 59,637 from the older farm youth group (16-25 years) gives a total of 290,688 farm young people between 16 and 25 years of age being reached through 4-H Club work. This is probably the largest young people's organization in the United States outside of the church and school.

More local leaders.--The number of nonpaid local leaders assisting with 4-H Club work in 1937 was more than 125,000 compared with 115,000 the preceding year and 85,000 in 1930 (fig. 4).

This increase in enrollment and quality of club work at a time when other activities are demanding so much time of extension agents is a tribute to the soundness of the club program and the organizational ability of extension agents.

Though this healthy, steady growth in club work is encouraging, details and analyses that follow in this report point the way to improvements that will expand the work and make it do even more to train and build citizenship among farm boys and girls. In the States of Georgia and North Carolina there are as many rural boys and girls eligible for 4-H Club work as the present total enrollment in the entire country (figs. 5, 6).

## INTRODUCTION

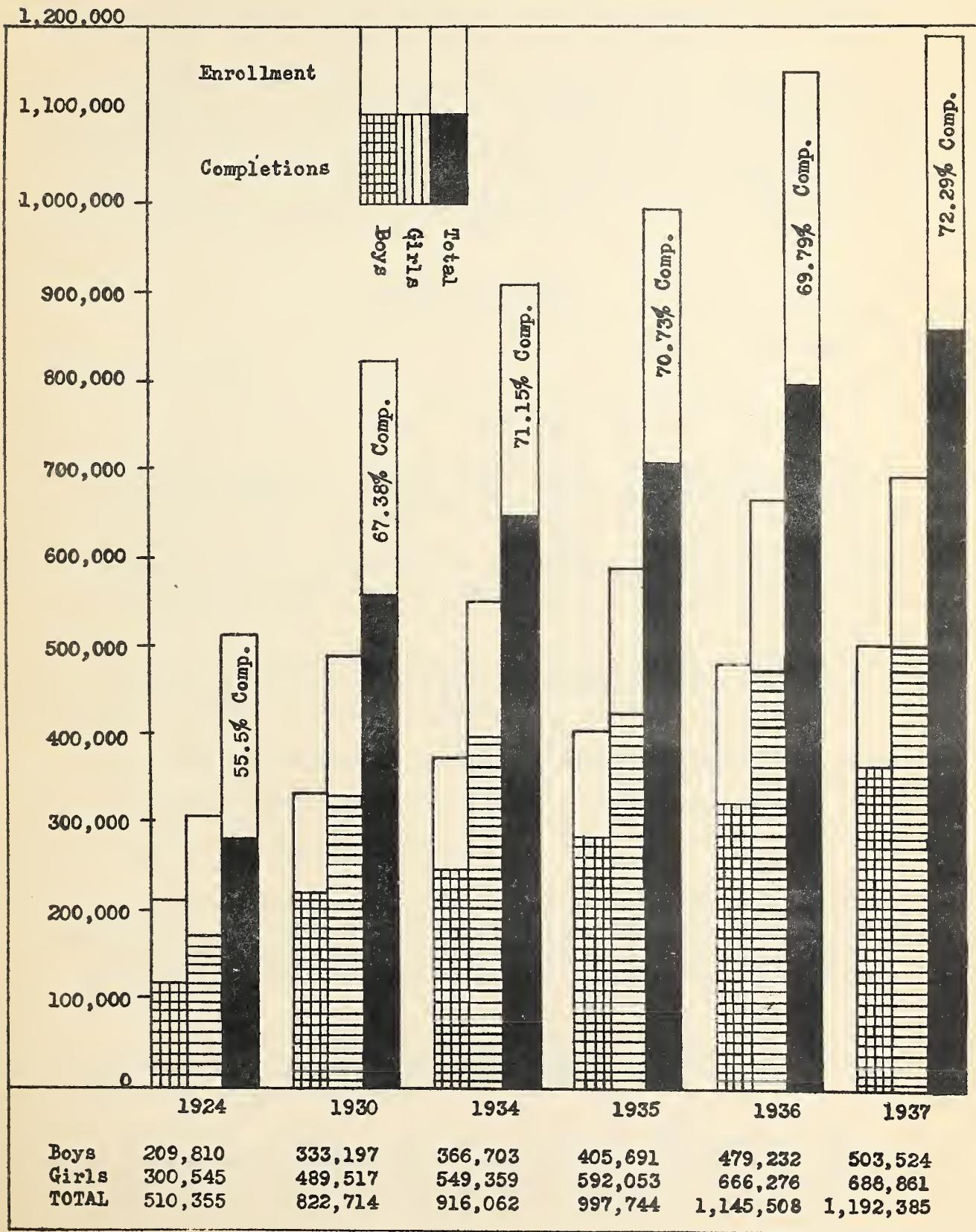
The year 1937 has been a significant one in 4-H Club work in rural America. The program in most States was characterized by stability and growth on all fronts. The attitude toward 4-H Club work of the public in general and of cooperating organizations and individuals throughout the Nation continued to be favorable. This attitude is lending much encouragement to 4-H Club members everywhere through the feeling of public approval of their endeavors. There is need, however, in a few counties in all States for a renewed vision and consistent determination to follow through to definite achievement of desired, attainable results. The ability of every individual concerned in the whole extension organization, whatever his task or opportunity, to feel his place and part, means to just that extent success or failure for the whole. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link. In 1938, no doubt some links throughout the country must be strengthened or replaced by new ones.

It is encouraging to note that all States will continue in their efforts to maintain a high quality of leadership-training work in the realization that the success of a local club is largely in direct proportion to the quality of leadership in that club. It is also noteworthy that the building of an attitude of community responsibility on the part of adults continues to grow.

The increased results from the 1937 4-H Club program over past years are evidence of the effectiveness with which the program has been executed (fig. 7). Each year sees greater numbers of farm young people participating in and taking advantage of the 4-H Club program in the several States. Among the outstanding tangible accomplishments are: A 4.1-percent larger number of boys and girls taking part in 4-H Club work in 1937 than in 1936. In addition, an increase of 16.5-percent was made in the enrollment of older farm young people from 16 to 25 years of age who were not in 4-H Clubs. The national enrollment for the 2,065 organized clubs in 1937 for the older group was 59,637. The total number of 4-H Club enterprises started was higher by 177,395 in 1937, and the number of enterprises completed was higher by 160,433 than in 1936. The percentage of completions by both boys and girls showed a net increase of 2.5 percent in 1937 over 1936. The 1937 average for 4-H Club completions for the whole country and territorial possessions was 72.29 percent, which is an all-time high. In 1924 the national average for completions was 55.5 percent. A wide variation in percentage of completions exists between adjacent States over the country. No doubt, the extreme variation between high and low percentages in completions is due in part to the lack of uniformity in standards for completion in club work.

The increase in the number of farm and nonfarm homes reached through 4-H Club work in 1937 is significant (fig. 8). In 1934 (the earliest year for which figures are available), the number of farm homes reached was 503,189, and nonfarm homes reached, 125,521. Similarly, in 1937 there were 723,643 farm homes and 178,659 nonfarm homes reached through 4-H Club work.

Figure 1. - Total 4-H Club enrollment and completions, 1934-37.





There was an increase in the number of farm and nonfarm homes reached over the 4-year period of 43.82 percent and 42.34 percent, respectively.

Likewise, the trend in numbers of nonpaid local leaders assisting in the promotion of 4-H Club work, is decidedly upward. In 1930 there were 38,807 women, 21,299 men, 14,824 older girl leaders and 10,414 older boy leaders actively engaged in club work. By 1937 these numbers had increased to 56,576 women, 32,705 men, 21,083 older girl leaders and 14,816 older boy leaders. The total local leadership in 1930 was 85,344 and in 1937 125,180, an increase of 46.7 percent.

#### PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

The problems and needs of 4-H Club work listed most frequently in State reports are:

Orient the 4-H Club program to present-day situations.

Adjust the contents of the club program so it will be in line with the objectives of the May 1935 report of the National Committee of the United States Department of Agriculture and Land-Grant College.

Develop better techniques for discovering the needs and interests of young people, and integrate the 4-H Club program more effectively with community plans.

More effective leader-training opportunities, making it possible for club members and local leaders to participate more efficiently in the development of plans and programs.

A continued interest on the part of adults in the 4-H Club program.

Strengthening 4-H Clubs and community 4-H Club councils.

Better use of 4-H Club buildings.

An increased influence of State-wide events, such as State 4-H Club short courses or round-ups; State, district, and county fairs; 4-H fat-stock shows; and the clubs for older groups, such as the collegiate 4-H Club and county organizations of older young men and women.

There is need in many counties throughout the United States for county agents to give a larger percentage of their time to the active development of 4-H Club work.

A need for developing more production- and management-type of demonstrations or enterprises. It is thought that such demonstrations train club members to think in more concrete terms of the development of the entire farm and home, and will develop more

responsibility and initiative. If this phase of the work can be developed further, it will have the effect of increasing the number of years boys and girls remain in club work, and will tend to close the gap between club work and the period in which farm young people will take up adult work.

The reports of State club leaders show there is a great need to carry club members through the late teens.

Four-H Club work is one of the big essentials and undertakings of the United States today -- that of building the boy and girl of tomorrow. If we are to accomplish this objective successfully, we must have progress; and progress means change. To meet the changes taking place in American farm life, there are many fundamental problems to be met:

1. How to reach a larger percentage of rural farm and nonfarm boys and girls between 10 and 21 years of age. The problem of the older farm boys and girls is still unsolved.

2. If the work is to be more effective and greater numbers of farm young people are to be reached, more time must be devoted to 4-H Club work by all members of the Extension Service in all States.

3. A more unified 4-H Club program throughout the United States.

4. More research studies of the present 4-H Club program are needed.

5. Granting larger numbers of extension workers leave for advanced study and research.

6. Finding out how to make greater use of factual data contained in annual reports, that all States may benefit.

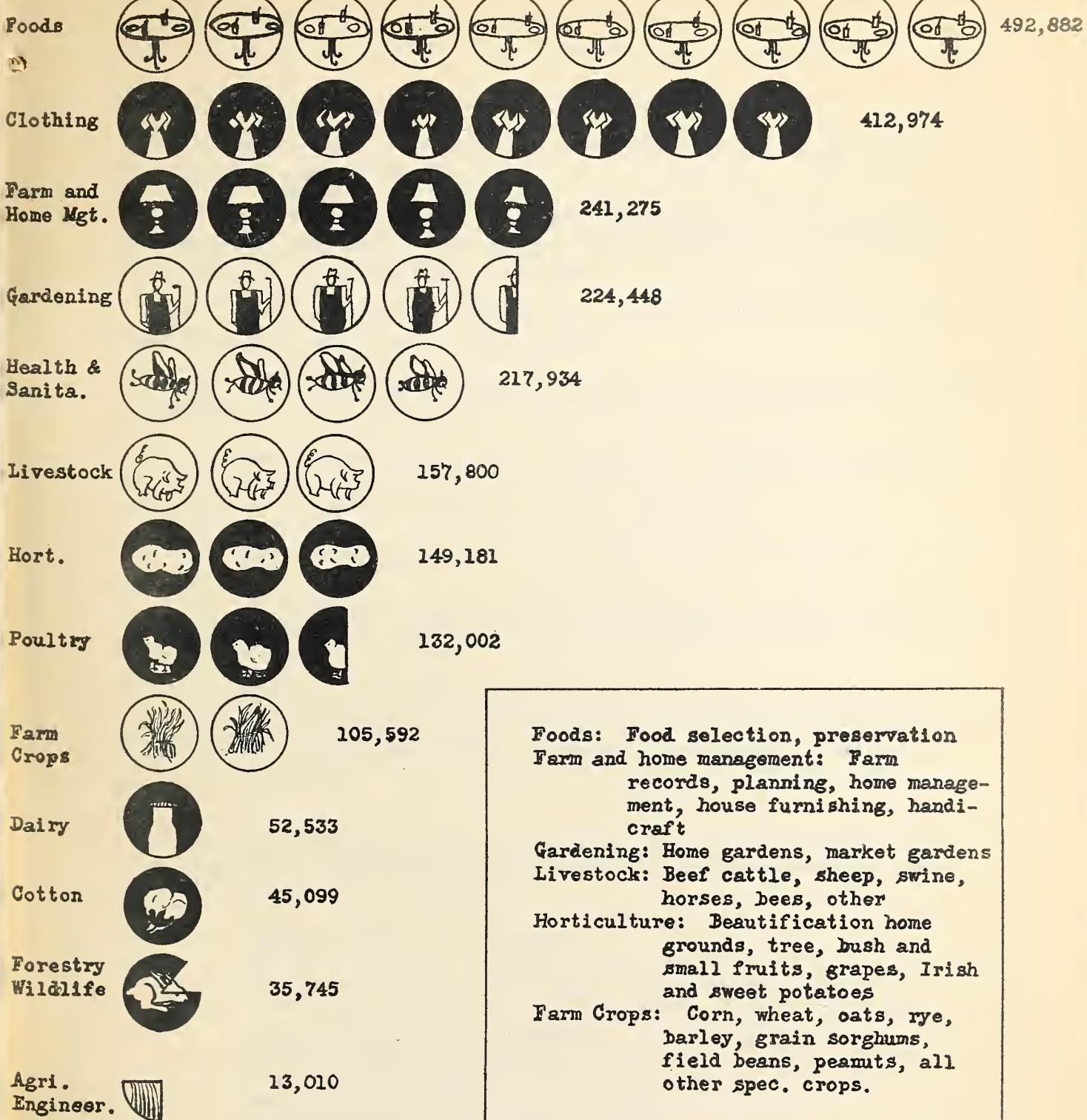
7. A more efficient method of leader training will have to be worked out if club work is to be expanded with the present extension personnel.

8. Need for giving more detailed attention to the proper development of 4-H Club programs for the year for individual club members, local 4-H Clubs, and county club councils, as well as for special 4-H Club events.

9. Having local 4-H Clubs operate as continuous organizations, rather than disbanding in the fall only to reorganize again in the spring.

10. Scattered population throughout many counties of the United States (remains a problem in organizing standard clubs).

11. More efficient organization and program planning for 4-H Club officers and local leaders.



Foods: Food selection, preservation  
 Farm and home management: Farm records, planning, home management, house furnishing, handicraft  
 Gardening: Home gardens, market gardens  
 Livestock: Beef cattle, sheep, swine, horses, bees, other  
 Horticulture: Beautification home grounds, tree, bush and small fruits, grapes, Irish and sweet potatoes  
 Farm Crops: Corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, grain sorghums, field beans, peanuts, all other spec. crops.

Scale: Approximately 50,000

Figure 2. - 4-H Club enrollment by major enterprises; United States, 1937.



12. The proper use of awards and incentives.

13. Making a more accurate and detailed record of demonstrations accompanied by usable story.

14. How to maintain and provide a more effective 4-H Club camp program to the end that it will satisfy more adequately the needs and the desires of the different age groups.

15. Need for closer coordination of 4-H Club work with programs of other Government agencies now in the field.

16. How to plan and conduct a definite program of 4-H Club work in each county in line with the social and economic conditions of the county.

17. How best to supply timely information, assemble reports of local clubs and counties, obtain a satisfactory percentage of completions; and how best to measure the effectiveness of club work.

18. Helping individuals increase their incomes and encourage thrift.

19. Helping rural young men and women develop desirable ideals and standards for farming, homemaking, and citizenship, and a sense of responsibility for their attainment.

20. (a) Developing among rural young men and women habits of healthful living; (b) providing them with information and direction in the intelligent use of leisure; and (c) arousing in them worthy ambitions and a desire to continue to learn, in order that they may live fuller and richer lives.

21. Extending community service as a part of the program of the local 4-H Clubs. The type of community service being rendered in many communities in Ohio is noteworthy:

Sending flowers to the sick.

Sending a load of coal to an old lady.

Putting on a play. The money to be used for curtains for the home economics room and subscribed to the Red Cross.

Giving food to needy families.

Cleaning grange and township house for community meetings.

Providing flowers for church services.

Taking care of children.

Making a comfort for a needy family.

Sending Christmas cards and candy to the childrens' home.

Picnic for a community reunion.

Euffet supper to mothers.

Assisting in sewing for the Red Cross.

Starting a reading circle.

Starting a traveling library.

Making scrapbooks for an old ladies' home.

Sending cards to sick people in the community throughout the year.  
Taking part in community meetings.  
Giving money to a local hospital.  
Singing to inmates of the county home.  
Mowing churchyard lawn.

22. Holding leaders for longer periods. There is an annual turnover of approximately one-third of local leadership.

23. Making it possible for club boys and girls from low-income families to attend institutions of higher learning.

24. Further development of 4-H Club college organizations among all colleges over the country to include former 4-H Club members with the view of strengthening further the local leadership in counties, when these young men and women go out to work in their various professions.

25. Keeping county officials, organizations, and businessmen and businesswomen generally acquainted with the type of 4-H Club programs being conducted.

26. Obtaining better cooperative backing and support of parents.

27. Financing 4-H Club enterprises for boys and girls from low-income families.

28. Conducting club work in superconsolidating schools when the pupils have a long distance to travel to and from school and little time for club work.

29. Holding 4-H Club members in club work for a longer period.

30. More adequate subject-matter materials are needed for several fields of 4-H Club work.

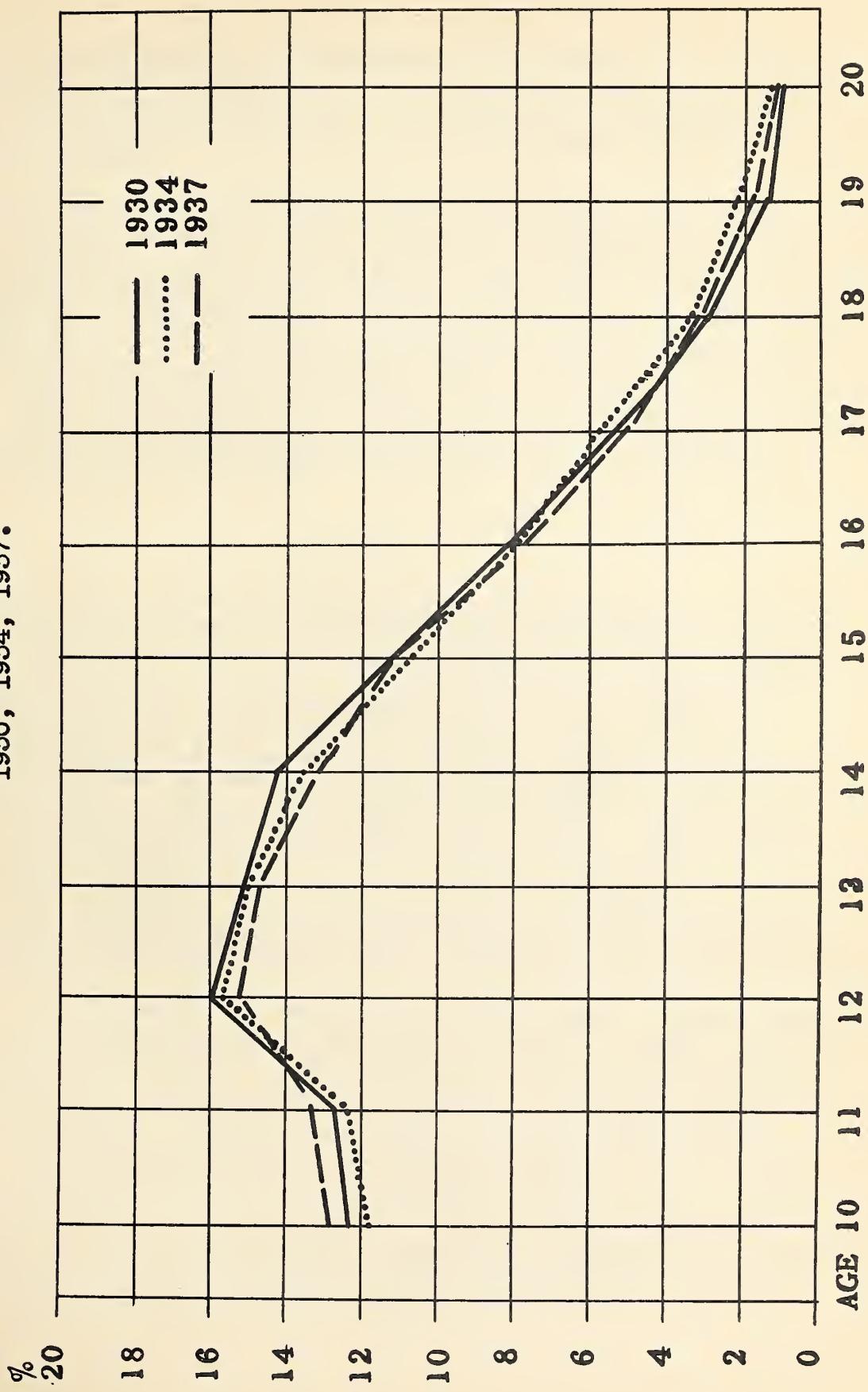
31. Touching more lives, particularly the parents', is an imperative need to further progress.

32. Integrating the 4-H Club program more effectively with community plans.

#### AIMS

The end sought in 4-H Clubs, in the Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges, is an efficient agriculture, an adequate food and clothing supply, an enriched country life, and an alert, satisfied, progressive rural people.

Figure 3. - 4-H Club enrollment percentage of all members, enrolled by age -  
1930, 1934, 1937.





The task placed upon the Department and the colleges is essentially an educational one, and continuous. It is recognized that when the State has an educational duty to perform, it is in accord with good teaching principles to begin with the youth of the country, rather than wait until they reach maturity.

Four-H Club work constitutes a part of the national agricultural extension system, by means of which instruction in agriculture and home economics is given to rural boys and girls by the Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges, and local agencies cooperating. Instruction is given by means of farm, home, and community demonstrations, and club activities, carried on by the young people themselves for the purpose of (1) Helping country boys and girls to improve rural farm and home practices and the social life of their own communities; (2) showing the possibilities of rural life; (3) aiding those who so desire to become efficient farmers and homemakers; and (4) teaching rural boys and girls how to make of themselves public-spirited, useful citizens and leaders in rural affairs.

#### TRENDS

There are positive evidences, as shown by State reports, that States are interpreting objectives and translating these objectives from general statements into specific terms, and are evaluating the 4-H Club program in the light of these objectives. Utilizing more the services of the entire State supervisory staff and subject-matter specialists is becoming increasingly important, and they are assisting State club leaders in developing ways and means for finding better the needs and interests of farm young people, as well as aiding in training local leaders for their job. Developing programs that are better adapted and that will interest older farm young people to remain in the work is also evident. Local leaders are becoming more appreciative of the value of 4-H Club work and now are realizing more fully that the modern boys and girls need help and not so much advice. There is no farm-youth organization in existence today that furnishes more practical help for such a large group of rural youth. A local leader in Rich County, Utah, gives a specific example of help given:

"I wish to mention one instance in our dairy-calf club where untold benefit has been accomplished. A moderately poor family, comprising seven children, two of them boys of club age, had never owned a cow, and milk was a luxury that could only be used sparingly. On approaching the father in regard to his boys' joining the 4-H calf Club, he became very much enthused, but said it was out of the question as he had no money to buy calves. The calves were obtained, and yesterday, after 2 years of club work, the father said to me, "I don't know how I can thank you. You have done untold good to my boys and the whole family. Today we have two fine young cows and two calves, from which cows we are using milk for the family and sending 75 pounds to the creamery. Appreciate it? That's saying it mildly. Keep up the good work and accept my humble thanks."

Better health practices and standards of living are being emphasized more in the communities by club members. Four-H Club work has fostered better sportsmanship and a desire for the more wholesome things of life. On the other hand, the work has led 4-H Club members to believe the public in general is appreciative of their efforts, and the work is receiving Nation-wide approval. It is evident everywhere that the work has developed a higher type of manhood, womanhood, and American citizenship.

#### 4-H CLUB WORK AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

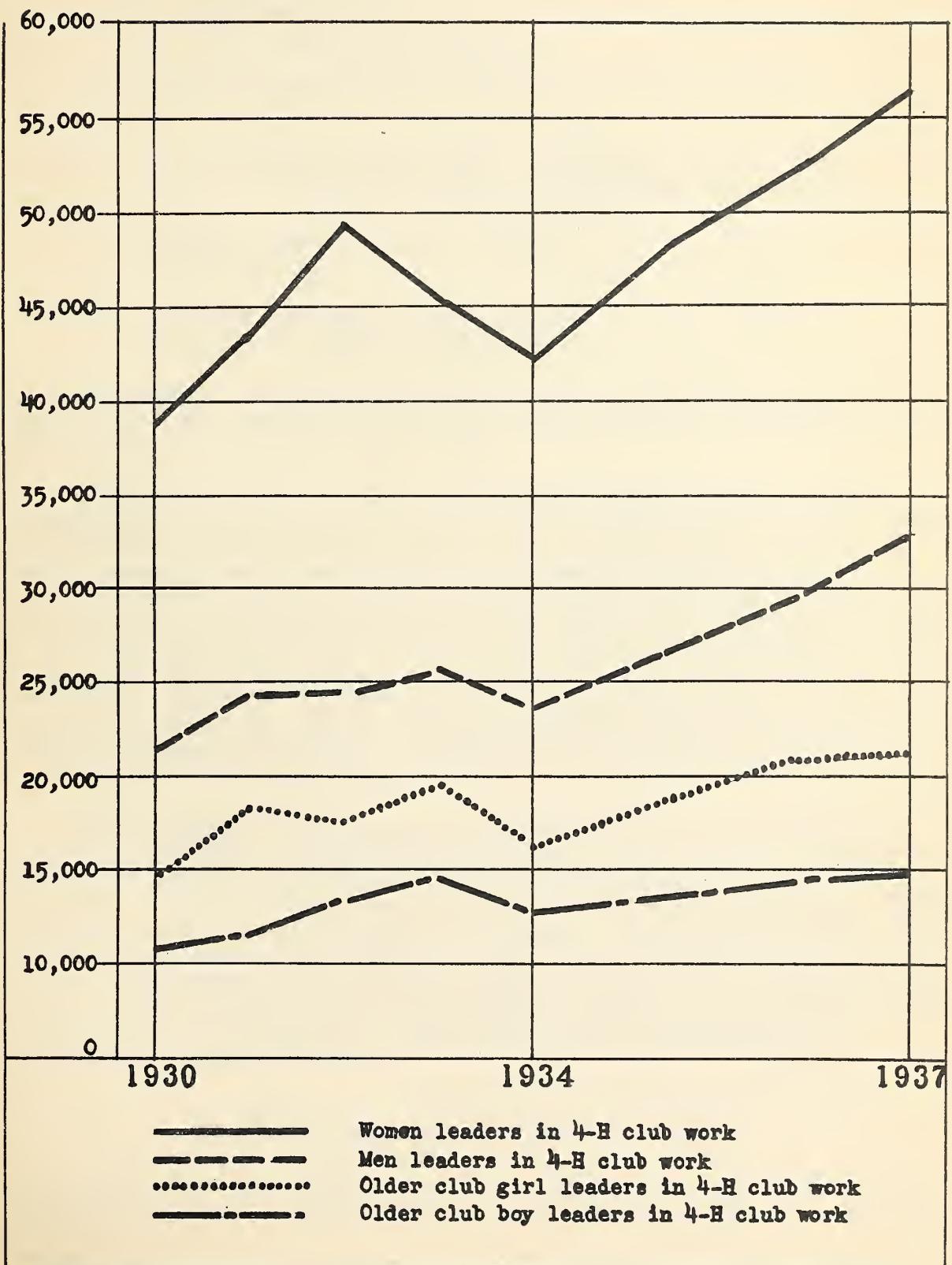
Four-H Club work has grown rapidly in importance and usefulness with the development of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and other agricultural programs.

The work with State agricultural conservation programs and with other Government agencies has claimed a big part of the time of both county agents and farmer committeemen, many of whom are 4-H Club leaders. However, the work with these agencies has opened new opportunities for club work and has broadened its cooperative activities with many agencies, and caused them to become more closely associated with work that has enlarged both the influence and the scope of club work. Club workers are cooperating with other agencies in changing their programs to meet new needs. County home demonstration councils are recognizing that they represent the interests of all extension workers and are including the girls more in their plans.

Mississippi. The home demonstration council and home demonstration women are cooperating in club work as follows:

1. Providing standard products for judging at the community and county contests.
2. Furnishing transportation to county contests, county camps, and the like.
3. Securing an adult leader for clubs when needed.
4. Visiting girls in the local neighborhood and assisting them with club requirements.
5. Assisting girls in getting equipment for projects:
  - a. Exchanging purebred eggs for market eggs.
  - b. Exchanging standard containers for canned products for nonstandard jars.
  - c. Giving cuttings and seed for flower and vegetable gardens.
6. Including 4-H Club girls in the following activities:

Figure 4. - Trends in local leaders - 1930, 1934, 1937.





- a. Better homes week.
  - b. Clean-up campaign.
  - c. Achievement days.
  - d. Other community activities.
7. Each home demonstration club makes it possible for a 4-H Club girl to go to club camp.
  8. Inviting girls to take part on the program once or twice a year. (A report on their club work, a demonstration.)
  9. Planning a special social, party, picnic, or supper for local 4-H Club.
  10. Attending community program prepared by club, especially when club is trying to make money.

Louisiana. The Gibsland 4-H Club is now establishing one of the first 4-H wildlife projects in Bienville Parish under the direction of the county agent and assistant county agent.

The work is being carried on by 23 club members, with 48 farmers cooperating. The project involves 5,825 acres. Groups of farms have been organized into game-management units of 160 to 1,200 acres, with a club member managing a unit, or a group of club members where the units are large. At present the club has 15 units that have been restricted by having the property posted against hunters and trespassers. Notices were made by club members and placed around the farms. All club members are now busy inventorying their seed stock, so as to know whether or not the area needs to be restocked. The amount of food and cover on farms is also being determined. Ample literature is being provided, and the community club leader is offering a 45-minute lecture period once a week for the boys and also farmers of the community.

New Hampshire. Club work has broadened its field to include the organization of town committees, which involves rural as well as urban people, the objective being to do more effective work with nonfarm boys and girls. The town committees are more like sponsoring committees. These sponsoring committees are usually the grange or the American Legion. There also has been formed a New Hampshire Camps, Inc., represented by one of the farm organizations, the 4-H Clubs, the State Y. M. C. A., and the Girl Scouts. These organizations joined together in renting a new modern camp recently built by the National Parks Service, and have operated it cooperatively during the year.

#### NEW METHODS DEVELOPED TO FURTHER CLUB WORK

In furthering the development of 4-H Club work in the States, considerable progress was made in 1937 in increasing the number of items and

the volume of mimeographed subject-matter helps made available to club members. Assistance in visual instruction has aided in building up supplies of photographs, lantern slides, and motion pictures to be used as illustrative material. Tours, demonstrations, and judging practices have been more widely used as a part of the teaching procedure. Many States report increasing requests from high school, normal school, and college students for information on 4-H Club work to be used in writing themes and term-papers, which reports indicate that school people are appreciating the value of 4-H Club work in the community and lending encouragement.

Reports from a number of States indicate that more time is being devoted to recreation, cultural subjects, and social development. An increased number of glee clubs and choral groups, both county-wide and local in nature, were reported. Boys and girls are being brought off the crossroads and given a chance to see other communities and to attend county, State, and national contests. Owing to an increasing number of young men making application for jobs at land-grant colleges and universities, many States have organized thrift clubs or go-to-college clubs, whereby 4-H Club boys with the cooperation of their parents, may set aside a part of their profits from 4-H Club enterprises for a period of from 3 to 5 years prior to finishing high school, to be used in defraying college expenses. Young people have been helped with the selection of a vocation, through providing vocational information and through interviews with professional people.

There were one or two instances where a State made the decision to take all 4-H Clubs out of the public schools. This new development is due to school consolidation in rural areas, and new school interests have been developed, leaving insufficient time in the school program for 4-H Club activities. More and more States are holding a leaders' day in connection with short courses and camps. No prizes are given, but leaders who have served 10 years or more are given public recognition by holding a banquet, awarding certificates, giving leadership pins, or by special newspaper write-ups.

Club members are showing interest in the field of agricultural research and are visiting, in large numbers, State experiment stations. The interest is so great in some States that regular visiting days have to be set.

4-H Clubs are being organized in a few States made up of boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The organization and program for this older group of boys is meeting the finest sort of approval.

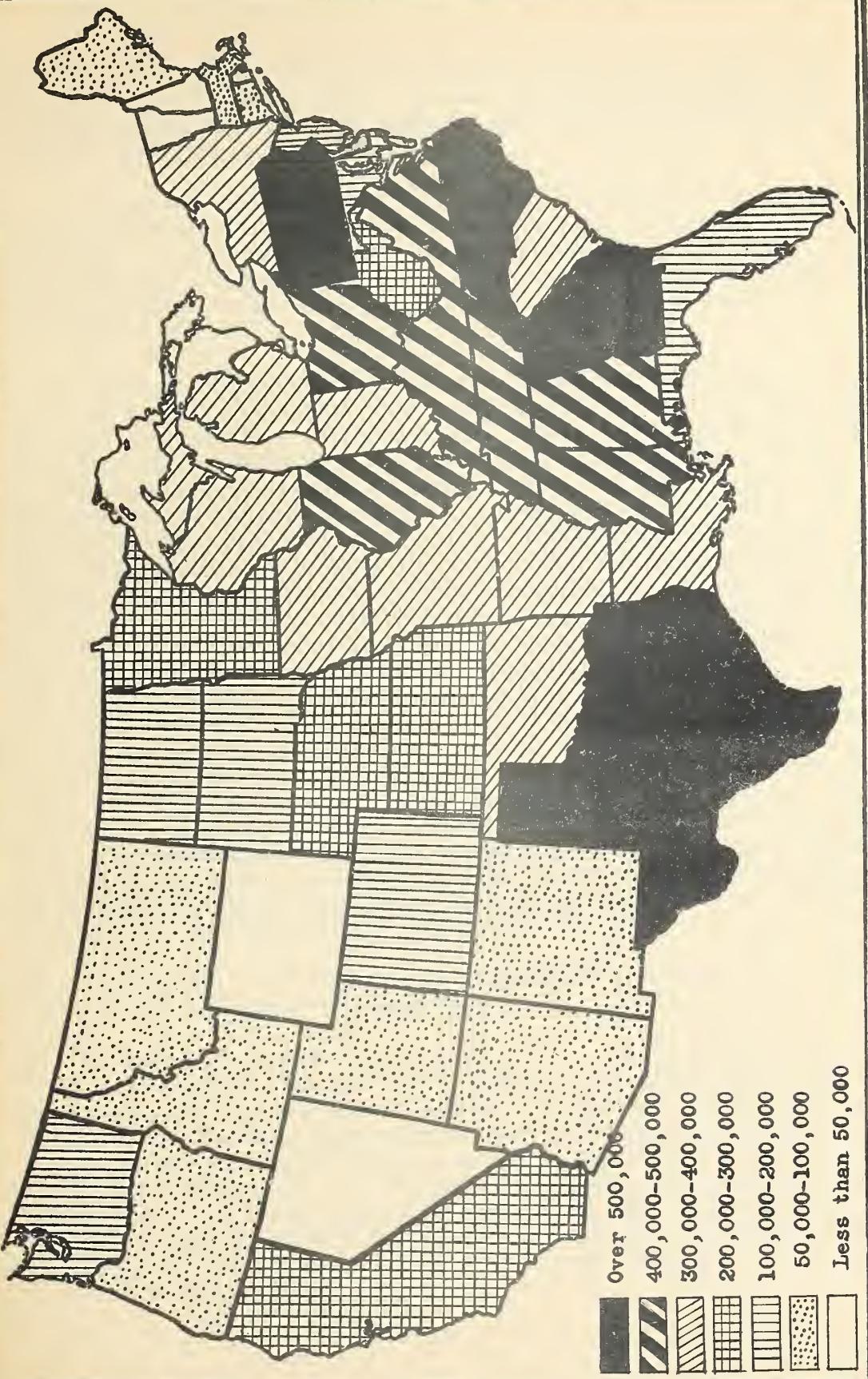
#### RESULTS OBTAINED

The upward trend in 4-H Club enrollment indicated in 1935 and 1936 was further accelerated in 1937 when 46,877 more boys and girls participated in various 4-H Club activities. The number of boys and girls

Based on U.S. Census figures of 1930

the United States; farm and rural nonfarm.

Figure 5. - Boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 20 eligible for club work throughout





completing the work outlined was 62,459 larger than in 1936. Likewise, club work with older farm young people from 16 to 25 years of age made a healthy gain. The membership in such special groups increased from 51,204 in 1936 to 59,637 in 1937.

A general increase of enrollments in livestock, crops, and all homemaking enterprises was made during the year, with the exception of legumes, forage crops, and agricultural economics. Most States reported more favorable feed and crop conditions for the coming year, indicating that the upward trend in both 4-H Club enrollment and completions will continue into 1938.

Special attention has been given by States generally to training of leaders, with the result that leaders realize their responsibility and are more aware of their opportunities. State-wide events in all States have been highly successful and largely attended, and cooperation from outside agencies has been most enthusiastic. All these results prove that the attitude of the public toward 4-H Club work and belief in its value is favorable. The most favorable results obtained may be summed up by saying that in the Nation as a whole there have been an increase in the number of county extension agents and county club agents; more effective leader-training opportunities; more emphasis placed on the individual 4-H Club member's record and narrative reports; continued and increased interest on the part of adults in the 4-H Club program; strengthening of community 4-H Clubs; community councils; more visits have been made by the extension personnel to learn county problems and to maintain a field viewpoint and to help new agents; more effective use of 4-H Club buildings and camps, and an increased influence of general State-wide, regional, and national events, such as State fairs, stock shows, State short courses, and achievement days. More emphasis has been placed on 4-H Club group activities, such as conservation of national resources, soil, wildlife, plants, game, animals, and projects relating to conservation - forestry, nature and soil conservation - and to such community service activities as highway safety, fire prevention, and accident prevention.

The girls' 4-H Club leader of Kentucky describes in her report the effect of club work in community life:

"Four-H Club work is recognized as a very important factor in building a better State. Judges tell me that active club members and those who have been good club members never come before them charged with crime. Teachers say that club members are the best students in high school. We find them the most active in church work. Positions of honor and trust are held by former 4-H Club members. As farmers and homemakers they are making good. Then we come to the conclusion that performing the demonstration, the responsibility, the record, the association, cooperation, and in short, all activities of the 4-H Club work, have given us a better class of citizens and a happier people."

The splendid influence club work has had on adult leaders themselves cannot be overlooked. It has been a form of adult education of no small influence, resulting in better parents and homemakers and greater community consciousness.

Many thousands of men and women throughout the country have been able to find happiness in unselfish service as leaders of clubs. In some select communities in counties throughout the United States, club work is accepted as a part of the traditional life of the locality. An enrollment involving most of the eligible young people is maintained and a high achievement with annual regularity. Here members remain members until they are graduated into adult life. Leadership seems to come automatically, and the accomplishments though modest are worthy.

The State club leader of Indiana reports that 4-H Club members are taught to "Think, plan, and achieve, individually and cooperatively. They possess the magic of combining work and play in living and in earning a livelihood. Their 4-H Club activities require serious thinking, thorough planning, and persistent efforts for satisfactory achievement. But the reward is deep and abiding satisfaction, for these activities are life itself both today and tomorrow. Nothing is more important or more interesting to youth than living. Food, clothing, shelter, recreation, health, friendship, helpfulness, character - these are the foundation and superstructure of life."

A fine example of the results of 4-H Club work was given in the report of the Girls' club leader of Iowa: "There is a very good example in the Glad Girls' Grove Club of the value of 4-H Club work. Seven years ago, a very shy, timid girl, became very much interested in 4-H Club work. She had talent and ability and 4-H helped her develop until she became a leader in Cass County among girls. She has filled all the offices in her local club, and this year was county president. Two years ago she graduated from Atlantic High School, tying honors in second place. In her junior year was editor of the school paper. In her first health examination she scored very low in posture, and decided to improve that if possible. She practiced walking an imaginary line going to and from country school, did foot exercises, followed doctor's recommendations, and last year placed third in the county contests. She has become a very outstanding girl and does not hesitate to give her training in 4-H work its due credit. This year she has entered Iowa State College to study to be a home demonstration agent, and the girls from her club sent her off with a lovely gift and their love and best wishes for success. She does and always will strive to make the best better."

#### What 4-H Club Work Has Meant to Me

"4-H has meant that I have higher ideals, better standards of living, and better health than my nonclub neighbors. It has taught me to appreciate the meaning of cooperation in work and in play, and to develop initiative

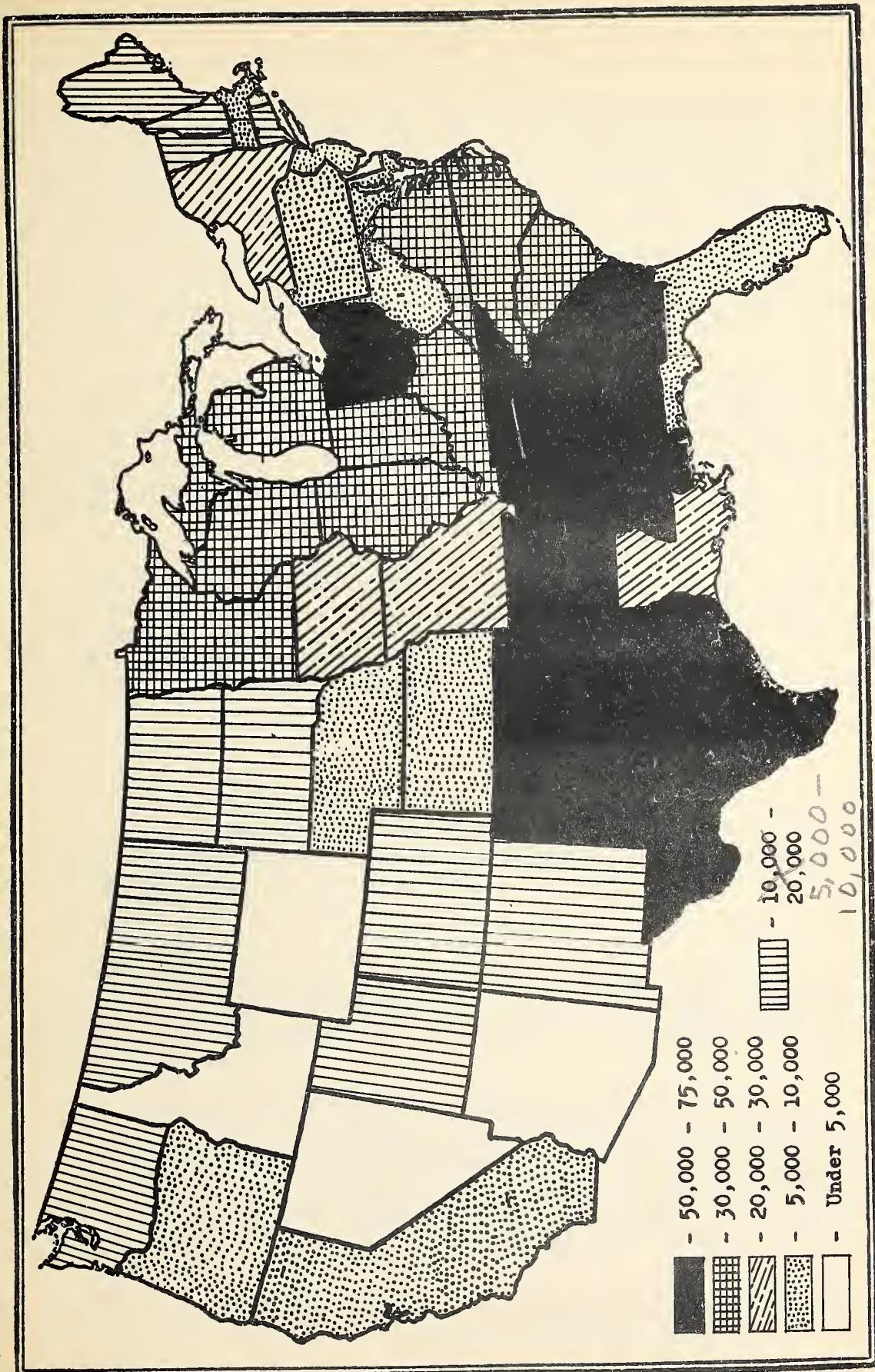


Figure 6. - 4-H Club enrollment, 1937.



It has given me not only a chance to have social and educational opportunities equal to any boy or girl in town, but also many experiences that will always be vivid in my mind. I have received special training in various phases of homemaking, which include clothing construction and design, home furnishing, canning, music appreciation, and personal accounts and record books. 4-H has taught me to care for my health and to be interested in the health of my six brothers and also my parents. I am interested in the welfare of future generations, as well as the present one, and I hope to assist in making my community a happy, clean, and pleasant place in which to live.

"My 4-H Club training has taught me to work with other boys and girls as a unit, and many times with people who are strangers to me. This gives me training for adult life upon which I am entering this year. I think one should try to make people happy while working with them, for then the work is more easily and happily done. Life is too short to waste any of it making other folks unhappy or being unhappy oneself.

"4-H has taught me to keep accurate accounts and records in an economical way for my club work and for my everyday needs. In my education from the public-school system, I have received no training in this line of work, and so I would say that the 4-H Club program includes educational values that cannot be secured in any other way. Most important of all, I think 4-H Club work gives the very best that can be given to any boy or girl."

--Eleanor Clark.

\* \* \* \* \*

Radio programs, publicity through newspapers, news-writing contests, and articles sent in by the Extension Service, have aided greatly in building sentiment for 4-H Club work.

\* \* \* \* \*

A number of county extension agents are impressed by the work of 4-H sheep-Club members in helping to promote better sheep practices. County Extension Agent Kallenbach of Cole County, Mo., reported this type of 4-H community service:

"A farmer in the Osage Bend community came into the office last week and asked the county agent if he could assist in drenching his sheep. The county agent and the assistant agent were tied up with soil-conservation work at that time and could not get away, so suggested that he get one of the boys in the 4-H Club to help him do the work. He got a 15-year-old club boy (one of the blue-ribbon winners at the State round-up), to mix the solution and administer the dosage.

"The boy not only drenched the sheep, but put on a demonstration for about half a dozen farmers who were there and explained to them the

steps taken in the demonstration. Several farmers in that community have reported to me they were surprised that a boy of 15 knew so much about his problems in sheep production, and they were proud of the club boys because they were local boys."

\* \* \* \* \*

Oklahoma 4-H Club work is doing a great deal to encourage its members to have savings accounts. Reports sent in for 1937 indicate that more members are becoming interested in this phase of the work.

Results Reported in 1937

With savings accounts -	Number	Amount
Boys .....	1,671	\$32,212.44
Girls .....	776	12,305.87
Value of property owned by -		
Boys .....		248,737.14
Girls .....		66,221.40

\* \* \* \* \*

Georgia is using a good, brief system of reporting results of club work. It is included here to show a good method of analysis and of compiling a State report.

State summary - 4-H Club work with Boys and Girls  
(white and colored) Georgia, 1937

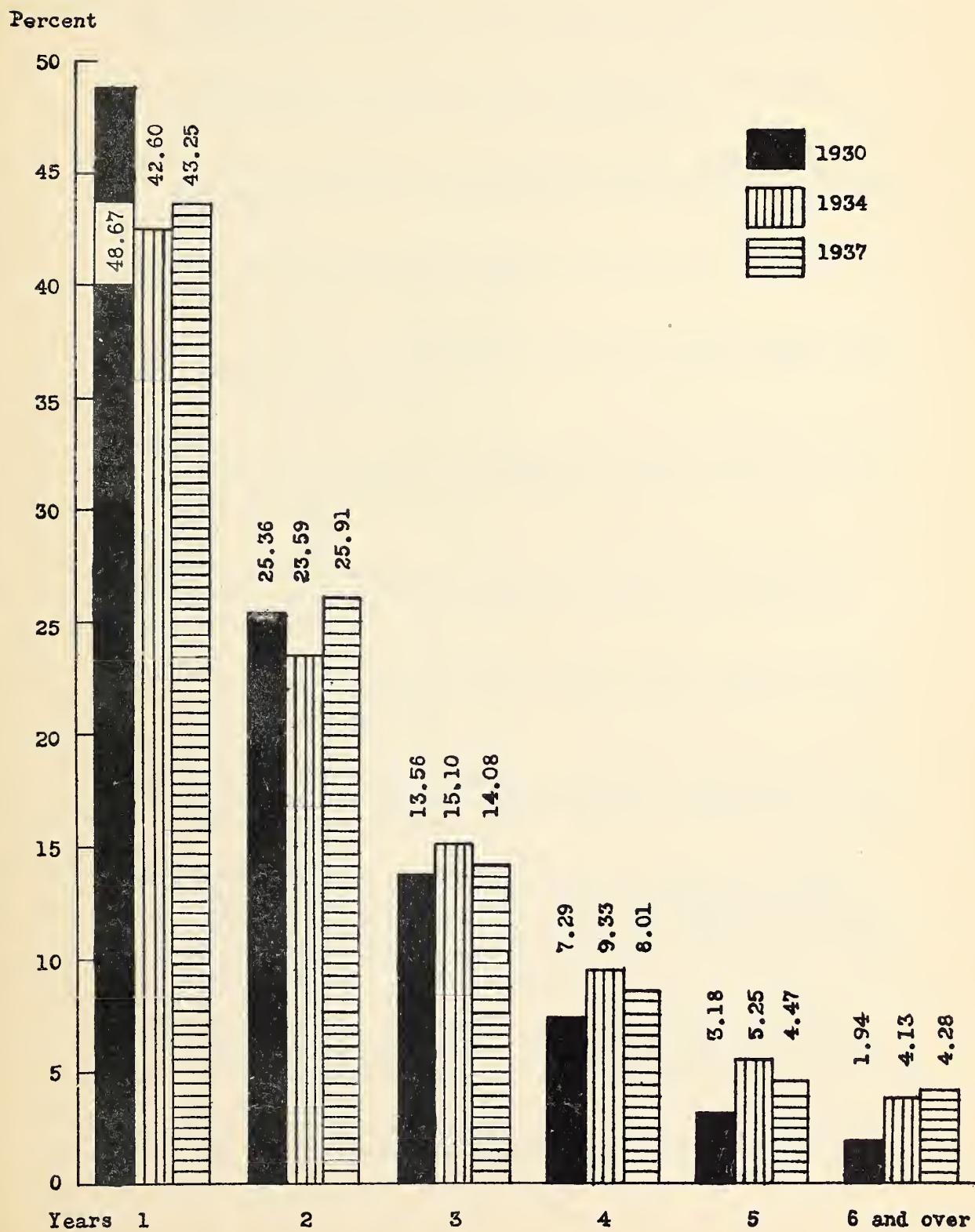
Club members enrolled (individuals) .....	71,399
Club members completing .....	51,397
Percent completing .....	71.98
Enterprises carried .....	294,740
Enterprises completed .....	215,009
Percentage completed .....	72.95
Value of products grown by club members completing .....	\$1,982,604.46

A total of 44,501 farm homes and 8,235 other homes felt the influence of 4-H Club work in 1937 by having their boys and girls enrolled.

During the year, 692 judging teams and 1,021 demonstration teams were trained. A State demonstration-team contest with 16 boys' and girls' teams competing was conducted at the southeastern fair. A State dairy-demonstration team contest had 9 boys' and girls' teams competing. The State dairy-cattle judging contest was won by Cook County through default, and there were 8 entrants in the State livestock-judging contest.

2,348 LEADER-TRAINING meetings were held with an attendance of 39,741.

Figure 7. - Percentage of 4-H Club members enrolled according to years in club work - 1930, 1934, 1937.





332 TOURS of 4-H Club members were conducted with an attendance of 9,211.

471 ACHIEVEMENT DAYS in 4-H Club activities were held with an attendance of 77,627.

252 COUNTY CAMPS were held with an attendance of 6,524 boys and girls, and 5,171 others as visitors.

CORN - 6,058 club members completed with corn demonstrations, growing 6,909 acres, producing 209,647 bushels, valued at \$209,647.

PEANUT - 703 club members were the producers of 806 acres of peanuts valued at \$21,146.59.

POTATO - 1,636 club members were enrolled in the potato demonstrations planting 515 acres and producing 81,260 bushels valued at \$62,844.85.

COTTON - 4,255 club members enrolled and 3,174 completed the cotton demonstrations, growing 3,574 acres with a production of 3,750,067 pounds of seed cotton valued at \$150,002.68.

GARDEN - 36,380 members enrolled and 26,539 completed the garden demonstrations, growing 6,486 acres valued at \$179,978.80.

PIG - 7,758 club members enrolled, and 5,374 completed demonstrations on raising a pig, 6,923 animals were raised at a value of \$138,360.

DAIRY CATTLE - 2,388 club members enrolled, and 1,723 completed the dairy-cattle demonstrations, growing out 1,362 animals valued at \$102,150.

FOOD PRESERVATION - 32,164 club members carried this demonstration, and 23,236 completed it with the following results: 705,164 quarts of fruits and vegetables canned; 223,801 other containers; and 560,258 pounds dried. This work had a value of \$259,068.15.

ORCHARDING - 5,576 club members enrolled in this demonstration, growing tree fruits, bush fruits, and grapes, and 3,862 completed. They produced products valued at \$45,690.

CLOTHING - 34,923 club members enrolled and 24,990 completed this demonstration, making clothing valued at \$124,950.

POULTRY - 10,670 club members enrolled, and 7,913 completed the poultry demonstration, growing out \$154,336 worth of chickens.

HEALTH - 23,027 health demonstrations were completed by club members; 8,823 not in special health projects did definite health work, and 13,042 had a physical examination.

In 93 counties, 1,107 clubs engaged in community activities, such as improving school grounds, conducting local fairs, and the like.

In 28 counties, 53 community houses, clubhouses, permanent camps, or community rest rooms were established for juniors.

#### What 4-H Club Work Has Meant to Me

By  
Lowell Watts  
Timnath, Colorado, 4-H Club boy

It is difficult to express all that 4-H Club work has meant to me. It has played such an important part in my life thus far that it is hard to visualize the life of any boy or girl without it.

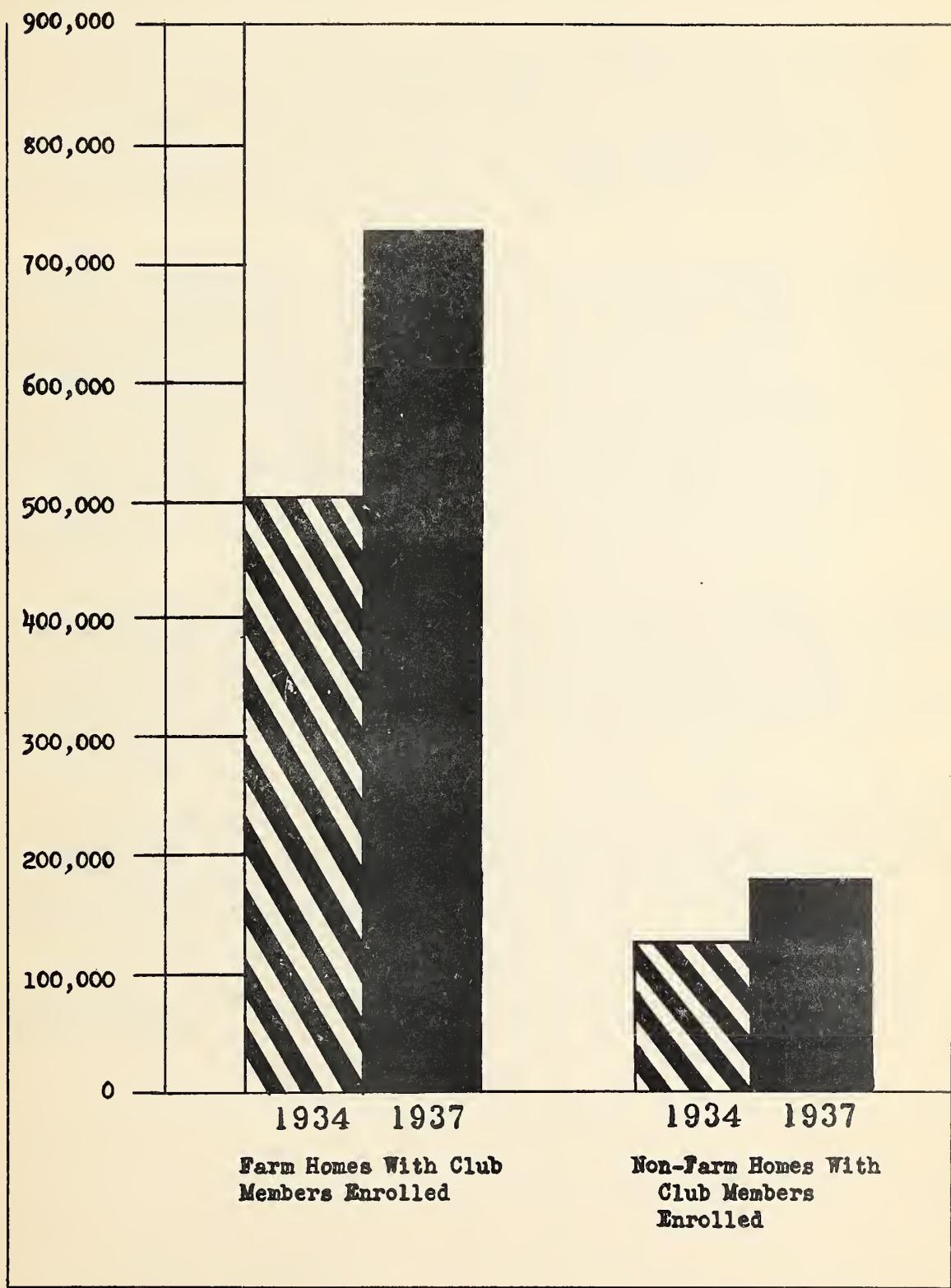
In 4-H Club work it has been a pleasure to carry my projects in spare moments which might otherwise have been wasted.

From my life on a farm it is easy to realize the value of club work as an aid to better farming. I have learned to keep accurate accounts of my work, to care for livestock and crops properly, and to fit animals for showing. The experience and knowledge gained along these lines will be invaluable throughout my life.

Another great value of 4-H Club work is the teaching of boys and girls to be good losers as well as gracious winners. I have known the disappointments of defeat; have watched my crops burn during the torrid days of drought and slowly eaten away by hordes of grasshoppers; I have been forced to sell my dairy cattle intended to be shown at the county fair, because they reacted to a test for contagious abortion; and I have watched the market drop and carry with it all hopes of profit on an investment. Yet these losses have taught me to be a good loser; they have taught me lessons early in life which would sooner or later have to be learned.

In direct contrast to this, I have known the joy of winning a ribbon on all my entries at a fair. The satisfaction of winning is well worth all the work, and more than makes up for the years when we lost.

Figure 8. - Farm and nonfarm homes influenced by club work.





Club work has taught me how to win modestly and not to gloat over those who have been less fortunate.

4-H Club work has meant much in the experience gained from social contact with others. When I first joined the 4-H Club, my acquaintances were only those who lived in my own community. At the annual club camp I met boys and girls from all over the county and made many new friends. Trips to the Colorado State Fair and the National Western Stock Show made many new acquaintances from all parts of the State. These associations and places of interest will always be pleasant memories to me.

When a small boy I watched with envy the careers of boys who had made names for themselves in 4-H Club work by becoming leaders, champions, and earning scholarships. I made up my mind to become a leader, and the past year realized that ambition. To be a member of the State champion stock-judging team, was the goal set. In 1934 I won a place on the county team which placed second at the State fair. In 1935 I was again on the team - we took fifth place. The achievement of my goal now seemed more difficult to obtain. However, I still kept trying, unwilling to give up. This year my dream was realized - I was high point judge on the champion stock-judging team at the State Fair. Success can only be reached through years of trying. I have learned to set my goals, then strive hard to reach them.

4-H Club projects have meant much as a financial investment. Starting with two registered heifer calves, which cost \$40, my herd has increased until it now numbers 14 animals, which are worth approximately \$950. Of this herd, 7 are producing cows. Recently, a registered bull calf was purchased from Carl Henry of Greeley, one of the foremost Holstein breeders of the State. The bull is a very well-bred animal and should do much toward building up my future herd.

Five draft horses have also been raised from one mare, which I had as a project in 1931. These horses are now worth about \$600, making the total invoice of my club projects \$1550. The income from this herd of cows is expected to pay my way through college, and, combined with my horses, to start me in the business of farming.

To me there is no other organization which could have given me better training, wider experience, and which has taught me higher ideals than my 4-H Club.

\* \* \* \* \*

Teamwork in Our Family

By  
Jean Brown  
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

4-H Club work has been a guidepost in our family since 1924. I say our "farm" family because we are all proud of our 90-acre farm in Feeding Hills, which we depend upon for our entire income.

My mother and father moved to our home 23 years ago, and all but two of their children were born here. There are nine children in our family, and all nine have been 4-H Club members, and five have been leaders. Mother and father are as real 4-H Club members as we are. Although they never win prizes at fairs, or even receive half the credit they should, they are always willing to help, and have made it possible for us to have our own livestock, flowers, vegetables, and other activities that make happiness for us on our busy farm. The one point they continually stress is "never be a quitter" and although many times we want to stop, we think of what they have taught us, and we just can't let them down.

4-H Club work has enabled us to laugh in the face of hard times. When the cold winter comes, we are comforted by looking over our cellar filled with our summer's work and know that we have food enough until next summer. Like the average family, we must work hard and practice thrift. Our main interest falls upon church, school, 4-H Club work, and town affairs.

Vera, the oldest girl, began club work in 1929, and soon after became the leader of her flower club. In 1931, she was chosen president of her room-improvement club. The following year she went in nurses' training and was forced to give up 4-H Club work, but in the summer she comes back to Hampden County and serves as the camp nurse at our county 4-H camp.

Kenneth, the oldest boy, started club work in 1924. He has been a garden- and dairy-club leader, and has won several county and State honors. He has also played a prominent part in our town and community fairs. Charles, Jr., enrolled in the garden club in 1928, and has won many prizes at several fairs and at the Eastern States Exposition. In 1930, he received the State Chilean nitrate contest prize and was awarded a week at the State camp. In 1930 he also received a week at county camp and a bronze medal for his outstanding club work.

The most outstanding club member of our family is Dorothy. She started club work in 1926, and has been a canning and room-improvement club member and a canning- and flower-club leader. She has several medals for her canning work. She received the Ruth T. S. Cotting memorial scholarship to Massachusetts State College. Today she is a teacher - and if it hadn't been for 4-H Club work she would never have had the opportunity to attend college.

One of my brothers has joined club work for the first time this year. Two others are enrolled in dairy and garden clubs. I am the sixth oldest child in the family and started club work in 1931, along with my sister Ruth. She has spent several years as a leader and has held several offices of her clubs. Ruth and I have spent a great many of our club hours working together, and many times have tied each other with our exhibits at the fairs.

I have been on several judging teams and in 1934 was on a county team at the Eastern States Exposition. In 1936 I received a medal for first place in a county canning-judging contest and also a State ribbon for the best exhibit in the junior department.

This year I received second prize in a State vegetable-judging contest. Both in 1935 and 1937 I was one of six dairy-club members to win the Wirthmore dairy trip. In 1935 we went to Brattleboro, Vt., and in 1937 the trip was to Malden, Mass. One of my greatest honors was to win first place in the county and second place in a State dairy-demonstration contest.

In reviewing our family club work as a whole, I find we have spent 15 years in club work and have completed 99 project years, 30 of which have been spent as leaders. We have attended State camp, county camp, inter-state camp at Eastern States Exposition, junior leaders' camp and dairy camp at several of the fairs. We have exhibited at local exhibits, Eastern States Exposition, Littleville Fair, Northampton Fair, Blandford Fair, National Canning Contest at Shenandoah, and the World's Fair at Chicago. Five of us have been county service club members, and Dorothy and I have held offices. If we added up the money we have won in 4-H Club work, we would find over \$1,000.

Because of the inspiration which I have received from my leaders and the value I have obtained from club work, it is my ambition to some day become a real 4-H Club leader, so I may help other 4-H Club members as my leaders have helped me.

#### SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4-H Club work continues to be a very important part of the agricultural extension program and is a joint responsibility of the entire extension staff, not simply that of county extension agents and 4-H Club agents. (The State club leaders and assistants, and, in a few States, other members of the Extension staff, are directly responsible for organization and promotion of the 4-H Club program.) They were given able assistance by a well-trained corps of 1,516 men and women subject-matter specialists. Extension work in all States is administered by State club leaders, district agents, county agent leaders or home demonstration leaders, and their renewed interest and activities in club work have had a tremendous influence in extending the work (fig. 9).

Many States report that county extension agents are asking for special subject-matter information and training schools in methods for conducting stronger 4-H Club work. Such requests clearly indicate that extension agents appreciate the need for increased leadership training to meet the needs of the growing 4-H Club program. This is a healthy sign for the future of the work. When the leaders charged with the responsibility of the development of the 4-H Club program are aroused, one cannot help but feel that the 4-H Club movement is on the threshold of even greater accomplishments, both in numbers and in the attainment of sound educational objectives.

On the other hand, a few States report county extension agents and assistant agents, as well as specialists, who, owing to demands for their time from other Government agencies, are not giving so much time to 4-H Club work as the importance of the program demands. Studies conducted in some States where programs of new Government agencies require much of the county extension agents' time, show in many instances that counties with the heaviest load of work of all Government agencies are also the counties carrying the larger programs of 4-H Club work, which may indicate that, after all, some types of efficient organization in counties prove to be a limiting factor.

In most States, district agents and county and home demonstration leaders are incorporating 4-H Club work in their supervisory duties to check on in their interviews with county and home demonstration agents. In many counties throughout the United States, however, county extension agents have not been encouraged to do 4-H Club work except when advised by club leaders. It is obvious that agents feel more of a responsibility to their immediate superiors, and when the district agents and other supervisors assist with and encourage 4-H Club activities among their agents, they have supplemented the work of the State club leader and have obtained greatly increased results.

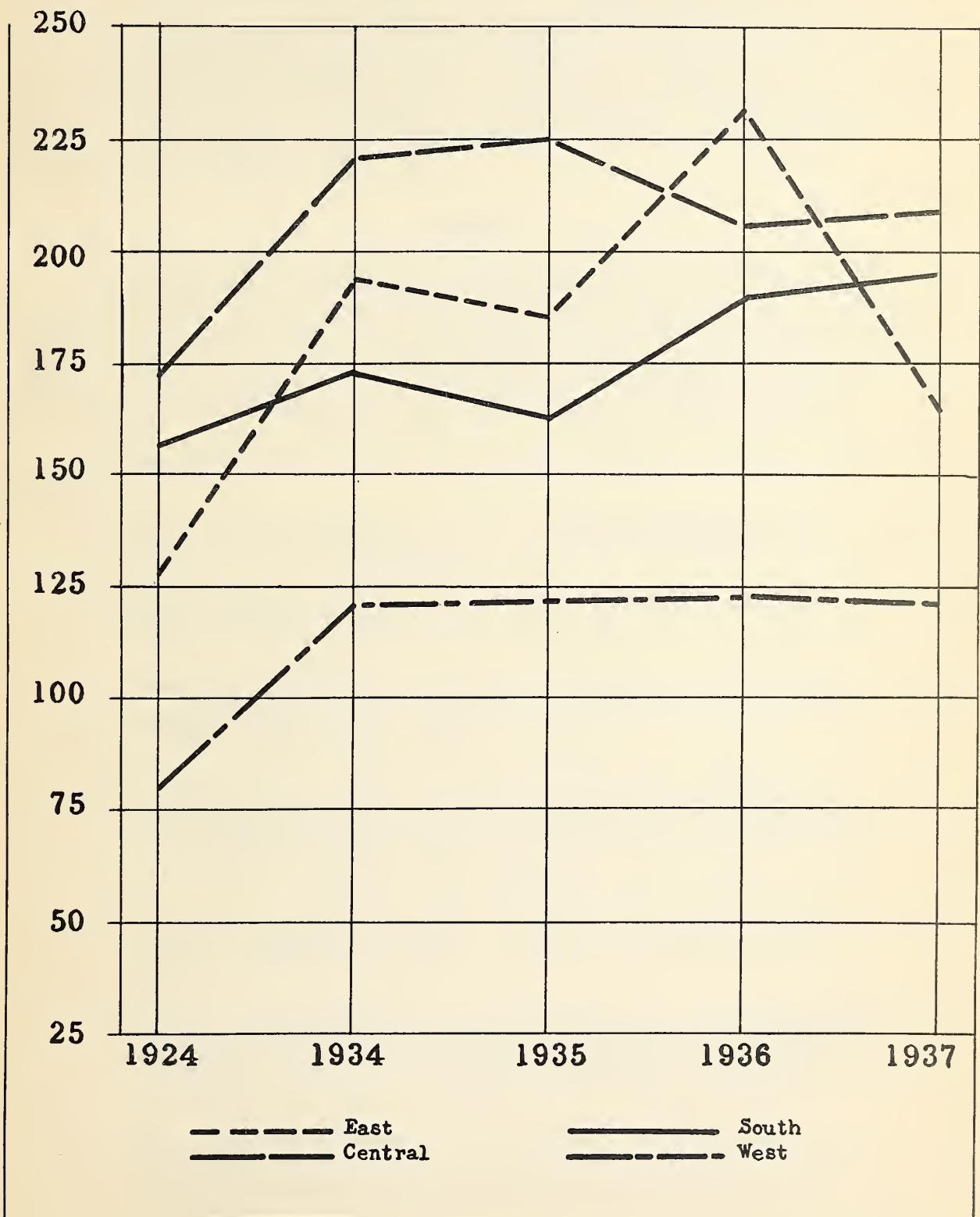
In one western State the club leader reports that, although many changes and additions in the form and organization of Government agencies coming into existence for the purpose of adjusting agricultural production, credit, farm tenancy, resettlement, land-use planning, and the like, have been made during the past 4 years, any mention of them as having retarded the State 4-H program sounds more like an alibi than a fact. Nevertheless, the adjustments necessitated, with the influence of droughts, flood, boll weevil and other insects, and other minor drawbacks, have provided serious handicaps to rapid development of 4-H Club work for 1937 in many areas.

Despite the heavy load of work carried by extension agents generally, and other drawbacks, remarkable progress has been shown in many States.

In Arkansas, for example, the regular 4-H Clubs for white boys and girls have grown from 24,335 in 1933 to 47,292 in 1937, a gain of 22,957 or 94.3 percent. Considering this was the chief period of the depression and the period when the Agricultural Adjustment Administration programs started adding heavily to the duties of the entire extension force, the gain of 94.3

Figure 9. - Enrollment of 4-H Club members per agent.

Number  
Per Agent





percent in the regular clubs for white boys and girls with an additional enrollment of 6,030 in a new organization for older farm boys and girls, is quite remarkable and surely significant of the deepening interest in the 4-H Club program among rural people generally. But, it is even more than that, it is a great compliment to the organizational ability of the county and home demonstration agents and their assistants, aided by the close supervision and cooperation of the administrative staff and subject-matter specialists. This is only one of the many examples that could be cited of progress made throughout the States.

#### OUTLOOK

From many standpoints, 1937 was the best year on record in 4-H Club work for the Nation. In practically every activity there was an increase in interest and a large number of boys and girls completing club demonstrations. Special activities such as achievement days, leader training, 4-H short courses, summer camps, wildlife conservation, and older youth programs are only a few of the outstanding activities carried on during the year.

The general outlook and plans for the country as a whole summarize briefly:

1. The club organizations from a national membership point of view will continue to increase.
2. The standard of work of both individual members and clubs will continue to improve.
3. Four-H Club work will be given more administration backing, closer supervision, and more effective assistance from subject-matter specialists.
4. County extension agents and club agents will emphasize leadership and give more time to leader selection and training. State 4-H Club leaders indicate that they will give more direct assistance to this work.
5. A greater effort will be made by those sponsoring club work to reach parents and to make them sympathetically aware of 4-H Club work.
6. County extension agents and club agents will be given more help in planning their programs, especially with reference to balance in the distribution of time among the various enterprises, organization work, and other activities.
7. The gradual development of the larger aim or purpose of club work to do its part in making for a better and more satisfying rural life now as well as in the future is evident.

8. The untiring work of local leaders is being recognized more.
9. More extension people engaged in carrying on 4-H Club work are taking advantage of opportunity for advanced study and research, that they may be better equipped to carry on the work.
10. More study is being given to the needs and interests of the upper teen group. More suitable enterprises are being developed to meet these needs and interests.
11. For a greater appreciation of country life, to develop a greater 4-H Club spirit, and to teach all 4-H Club members to be courteous, and to have a greater respect for the finer things of life.
12. The trend of educational status of 4-H Club leaders is definitely upward among former club members, with increasing length of farm residence, whereas among leaders without club experience the trend is downward./1

/1 See Report of National Committee of Boys and Girls Club Work, 1937.



## 4-H Club Work Marches On A Review of Achievements in 1937

C. A. Sheffield



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EXTENSION SERVICE

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